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Manzanar Relocation Area
Manzanar, California

April 2, 1943

Miss Esther Rhoads
American Friends Service Committee
544 E. Orange Grove Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Miss Rhoads,

When you were in Manzanar a short time ago, you encountered a young fellow--a rather pessimistically-minded young fellow--who spoke about being interested in Post-War Administration work, and another young fellow--very intelligent--who was vitally interested in continuing electrical engineering work. Both of them attended the Los Angeles City College for the same period of time. Now, one has left Manzanar for the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois. The other has remained in this Center. That one is I--commonly referred to as PHK.

Perhaps, you might be slightly interested in what has happened to PHK since last you saw him. Of course, you know of the recent registration which was held in all of the Centers simultaneously. Between the time that you visited Manzanar and the time of the registration, many things have happened. Through your discussion of my predicament, Mr. Woodruff Emlen began to work on my case. My records were sent to the Columbia University in New York in the hopes that I might be accepted there as a student in Post-War Administration.

Things were just beginning to look fair for me. Then came the opportunity for Nisei to volunteer for the Army Combat Team. At first, I was not too much in favor of it because of the feeling that a formation of such a unit would be only another form of race prejudism and a type of segregation for the Nisei. After thinking over the matter for a time, I saw that entering the Combat Team would be the wedge for which the Nisei were waiting. Here was the chance to show the world that the Nisei were not Americans because of place of birth alone but because of choice--because of close ties. I volunteered.

After waiting for a short period of time, the physical examinations were given to the volunteers. On March 31, I was examined and was not accepted for the Army. My vision was faulty. I could not even enter for limited service.

Now, I shall continue the plans which I had contemplated before. Again, I am intending to get enough education so that I might be fitted in some measure for Post-War work--for Post-War Administration work if at all possible. I shall make an application for the Friends' Hostel in Chicago today. Perhaps, next month might see me in Chicago. Who knows?

Thank you for all the help which you have given me. I hope that I may see you again. My very best to you!

Sincerely yours,

Paul H. Kusuda